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Foreign and security policy

Foreign policy is about Sweden's relations with and policies towards other countries. Preventing risks and threats is an important part of security policy, which in turn is part of foreign policy. Swedish policy is pursued via direct relations with other countries and also through bodies such as the EU and the UN.

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Tobias Billström Minister for Foreign Affairs

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News about foreign and security policy

Statements of Foreign Policy

Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström presents the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy to the Riksdag following Sweden's accession to NATO. Photo: Anders Löwdin/The Riksdag

The Statement of Foreign Policy 2024 contains the Government's foreign policy objectives and priorities for the year.

Sweden joining NATO entails a historic, profound and immediate change in Sweden's foreign and security policy. Because of this, the Government has presented a supplementary Statement of Foreign Policy.

- Speech: Statement of Foreign Policy 2024
- · Speech: Statement of Government Policy Following Sweden's Accession to NATO

Illustration: Government Offices

Government's response to situation in Israel and Palestine

On 7 October 2023, Hamas carried out a terrorist attack against Israel. The security situation in the region has seriously deteriorated since then. Information about the Government's response to the situation and the subsequent war is provided here.

· Content about the government's response to the situation in Israel and Palestine

Relations between Sweden and NATO date back to 1994 when Sweden joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP). Photo: Antonia Sehlstedt/Swedish Armed Forces

Sweden in NATO

On 7 March 2024, Sweden became a full member of NATO. NATO is a defence Alliance whose purpose is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security. Here you will find information about Sweden's role, and the Government's work and policies on NATO.

- Sweden in NATO
- Sweden's role in NATO

Photo: Lev Radin SipaUSA/TT

Sweden's support to Ukraine

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Sweden has provided military, humanitarian and civil support to support Ukraine. Together with the EU, Sweden has also adopted macroeconomic support and several sanctions packages against Russia.

• Sweden's support to Ukraine

Photo: mangan02/Wikimedia Commons

2024 Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers

A safer, greener and freer Nordic region – this is the focus of the 2024 Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The vision of the Nordic region being the world's most integrated and sustainable region by 2030 will shape the Swedish Presidency

• 2024 Swedish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers

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Government phasing out bilateral development aid with Iraq

The Government has decided to begin a phase-out of Sweden's strategy for development cooperation with Iraq. This phase-out will be done responsibly, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) have been tasked with concluding operations by 30 June 2025.

Published 18 July 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell

Sweden has taken part in NATO Summit for the first time as full member

On 9–11 July, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson took part in the NATO Summit in Washington DC together with Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström and Minister for Defence Pål Jonson. The member states agreed on new support to Ukraine and measures to strengthen NATO's capability for deterrence and defence. NATO also celebrated its 75th anniversary during the summit.

Published 12 July 2024 · Article from Pål Jonson, Tobias Billström, Ulf Kristersson, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister's Office

Clear results six months into Sweden's N5 and NB8 coordination

In 2024, Sweden is responsible for coordinating foreign and security cooperation of the Nordic countries (N5) and the Nordic and Baltic countries (NB8). In this role, Sweden has chosen to highlight three main priorities: strengthening security policy cooperation in the region, maintaining unwavering support for Ukraine's right to freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and securing continued global support for Ukraine.

Published 11 July 2024 · Article from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Sweden attends first NATO Summit as member of the defence Alliance

On 9–11 July, NATO's 32 member countries are gathering for the NATO Summit in Washington DC. Sweden is represented by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström and Minister for Defence Pål Jonson. The Summit is the first one Sweden is attending as a full member of the defence Alliance.

Published 08 July 2024 - Press release from Pål Jonson, Tobias Billström, Ulf Kristersson, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister's Office

New UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy visits Sweden

On 7 July, British Foreign Secretary David Lammy visited Stockholm for a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström. Sweden is one the very first countries the new UK Foreign Secretary chose to visit.

Published 08 July 2024 · Press release from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Johan Forssell visited Kyiv with a large business delegation

The first-ever Swedish minister-led business delegation visited Ukraine this week. The delegation was headed by Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell. In Kyiv, the delegation met with President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and held roundtable discussions with a tailored line-up of Ukrainian ministers, including Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. The new Swedish trade office was also inaugurated.

Published 26 June 2024 · Press release from Johan Forssell, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Fourteenth sanctions package against Russia adopted

The EU has adopted its fourteenth sanctions package against Russia in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The sanctions aim to further limit the Russian state's revenues and Russia's capacity to wage war, and they are an important part of the EU's support for Ukraine. The new package includes stricter measures targeting the shadow fleet and imports of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Published 25 June 2024 · Press release from Ebba Busch, Tobias Billström, Ulf Kristersson, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Prime Minister's Office

Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström to visit Warsaw

On 25 June, Mr Billström will travel to Warsaw for talks with Poland's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rados aw Sikorski.

Published 24 June 2024 · Press release from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Statement on summoning of Russian Ambassador to express stance against Russia's violation of Swedish airspace

Today, Tuesday 18 June, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has summoned the Russian Ambassador to express its stance against Russia's violation of Swedish airspace that took place on Friday 14 June.

Published 18 June 2024 · Statement from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Speech by Minister for Defence Pål Jonson in Manila

Speech by Minister for Defence Pål Jonson at the Swedish National Day reception organised by the Embassy of Sweden in the Philippines on 6 June 2024 in Manila. Check against delivery.

Published 18 June 2024 \cdot Speech from Pål Jonson, Ministry of Defence

Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström will host Nordic foreign ministers' meeting

On 19–20 June, Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström will host a meeting of the Nordic foreign ministers in Stockholm. The meeting will take place within the framework of Sweden's Presidency of the N5 – Nordic cooperation on foreign and security policy.

Published 18 June 2024 · Press release from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Innocent Swedes now back home after imprisonment in Iran

Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi, the two Swedish citizens wrongfully imprisoned in Iran, have come home to Sweden.

Published 17 June 2024 \cdot <u>Article</u> from <u>Ulf Kristersson</u>, <u>Prime Minister's Office</u>

Statements by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on the return to Sweden of Johan Floderus and Saeed Azizi

Statements by Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, 15 June 2024, text and video.

 $\textbf{Published 15 June 2024} \cdot \underline{\textbf{Statement}}, \underline{\textbf{Webcast}} \text{ from } \underline{\textbf{Ulf Kristersson}}, \underline{\textbf{Prime Minister's Office}}$

From partner to ally - The Swedish NATO accession and Sweden's new space diplomacy

Speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström's during his visit to Texas 13–15 May 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 12 June 2024 · <u>Speech</u> from <u>Tobias Billström</u>, <u>Ministry for Foreign Affairs</u>

Strategy for international civilian crisis management and peace promotion 2024–2028

Sweden's strategy for civilian crisis management and peace promotion is a part of the governance of Sweden's collective development, foreign and security policy. The strategy will contribute to strengthening the multilateral organisations' capability to prevent, predict, manage and resolve crises and conflicts and help promote sustainable peace, security, democracy and increased respect for human rights and freedoms and the rule of law.

Published 07 June 2024 · International development cooperation strategies from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Israel/Palestine: Statement by the HR on behalf of the EU in support of the three-phase roadmap to an enduring ceasefire and release of hostages

The European Union gives its full support to the comprehensive roadmap presented by President Biden, that would lead to an enduring ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and a surge of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The EU appreciates the determined efforts by the US, Egypt and Qatar in facilitating negotiations to bring an end to the war between Israel and Hamas, while ensuring Israel's security, to which the EU remains fully committed.

Published 05 June 2024 · Statement from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs visited Stockholm

On 28–29 May, Canada's Minister for Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly visited Stockholm at the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström. The visit took place in the light of Sweden's NATO membership and preparations ahead of the upcoming NATO summit in Washington DC in July.

Published 31 May 2024 · Article, Webcast from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström to take part in informal meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs

On 30-31 May, Mr Billström will take part in an informal meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Prague.

Published 30 May 2024 · Press release from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström at the China Forum in Stockholm

Speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström at Stockholm China Forum, Stockholm, 29 May 2024. Check against delivery.

Published 30 May 2024 · Speech from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Statement by Minister for Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström

Statement concerning Rafah, 28 May 2024.

Published 29 May 2024 · Statement from Tobias Billström, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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